

THE **REACT** ER<sup>®</sup>  
June 2020  
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF REACT INTERNATIONAL, INC.



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# A Word from the Editor

Will Stanley, Editor, The *REACTer*

Yes, we are nearly halfway through the last year of the 2nd decade of the 21st Century. I really thought, as a kid, that we'd be living in towering apartment complexes way up in the sky and moving about in flying cars and going from floor to floor in buildings by jet tube, à la The Jetsons.

But, nooooo.... here we are teaching people how to wash their hands and how far 6 feet is! 🤔

Well, hopefully by the time you are reading this, this coronavirus thing will be mostly over, I hope. It has been a difficult time so far, not knowing who to believe or what to do. Should I wear a mask? Should I wear gloves? Will wearing a mask cause more problems for me than not? Will wearing gloves cause me to 'cross-contaminate' other places?

So many questions without a central source for authoritative answers!

I can tell you this, however...

Warren Buffet, Chairman of Berkshire Hathaway and the "Oracle of Omaha", said this at his company's annual board meeting last month.

## Never Bet Against America

That's darn right! I can think of no better words to embrace during this difficult time! All the problems we are having will soon be over and America will be BACK! Count on it!

In closing, let me add something here that I want to make sure you all know. The words I write in this column are mine and mine alone. They do not represent *REACT* International, it's Officers, Board or individual members in any way. You have an issue with anything I write, talk to me.



The *REACTer* (ISSN 1055-9167) is the official publication of *REACT* International, Inc., a non-profit public service corporation.

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**William Stanley**  
Editor

DEADLINE: 15th of the Month prior to publication (i.e: July 15th for August issue, etc)

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***Your article and photo submissions are vital to our success! Articles, high resolution photos and inquiries about advertising in The REACTer can be emailed to: editor@theREACTer.com***

The *REACTer* magazine is available and open to all interested persons at: [www.thereacter.com](http://www.thereacter.com)

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# BOARD of DIRECTORS



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J.Mahon@REACTIntl.org



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**REGION 3**  
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**REGION 4**  
Currently  
Vacant



**REGION 5**  
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**REGION 6**  
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**REGION 7**  
Currently  
Vacant



**REGION 8**  
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J.Capodanno@REACTIntl.org



**REGION 9**  
Robby Goswami  
All Areas Outside US  
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meet **OUR**  
OFFICERS

## REACT International, Inc., Officers



**John Capodanno**  
President  
California



**Tom Jenkins**  
Executive VP  
Idaho



**John Mahon**  
Secretary  
Massachusetts



**Russ Dunn**  
Treasurer  
Idaho

# SUBMITTING **TEAM NEWS**

Is EASY!

Just follow this guideline...

**NAME** of Person Reporting— **TEAM NUMBER**— **TEAM LOCATION**

**DESCRIPTION** of **ACTIVITIES** (Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How)

Provide this info for each event in your report

**INCLUDE PICTURES**—attach them to your email—don't send .PDFs

(Caption: **WHO**, **WHAT** and **WHERE** each picture shows)

**NAME** of Photographer

**SEND** the entire report (with pictures attached) to:

**EDITOR@THEREACTER.COM**

## SEE HOW EASY THAT WAS?

So Easy, even a caveman could do it! (sorry, Geico, I couldn't resist)



**ATTENTION:**  
**ALL REACT MEMBERS**  
**and**  
**ALL HAM OPERATORS**



**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US**  
**ON THE**  
**REACT INTERNATIONAL**  
**WORLDWIDE NET**  
**EVERY TUESDAY AT 9 P.M. EST**



**Contact** [nets@REACTIntl.org](mailto:nets@REACTIntl.org)  
**for information on how**  
**to get on the net**



# Publicizing **REACT**

*From a Publicizing REACT column in the Nov/Dec 1990 REACTer comes this still relevant advice. It is edited very lightly to be more applicable to today.*

## GETTING YOUR STORY COVERED

How do you get the attention of your local media? To start, knowing the needs of local television, newspaper, radio and cable editors is the best way to make sure your story is covered. Consider these tips:

- Get the direct telephone numbers of assignment editors to use on weekends and holidays;
- Don't call assignment editors on deadline (typically two hours before broadcast or print). When you do call, a good approach would be to ask "Are you on deadline?" If they say Yes, ask when a better time to call would be. Editors and reporters will appreciate that courtesy;
- Provide visuals for TV stories. The average

hard news story without visuals will get about 20 seconds of airtime and very little print space. A soft-news story with visuals can garner up to 90 seconds or a much bigger print space;

- Offer interviews with those affected by your story (an endorsement from those agencies you assisted, for example);
- Contact your local TV and cable stations two to three weeks prior to your event. Sometimes they will include it in a local bulletin board for you at no cost.
- After the event, contact the media that was involved and offer a follow up interview. Mention the needs that were fulfilled and don't forget to thank your sponsors and the media that covered the story. It will pay off in the future.

In an effort to help Teams get more publicity for their efforts, The *REACTer* will be running 'refreshed' articles like this one in future issues. Look for the Publicizing *REACT* header.

### ATTENTION: TEAMS !!

Be Sure to file your Team's

## IRS 990N form

They are due starting last month. You should know how to do this but if you don't go here:

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-and-nonprofits>

look for the 990N form. For the majority of Teams out there, you will file the postcard form and it takes about 3-5 minutes. (if your Team has zero income, it shouldn't take you very long to complete the form, but you do have to complete it!)

**AND THEN YOU ARE DONE!**

**Easy-Peasy!**

**(But sooo necessary AND required by law!)**





# Going Virtual with *REACT*

Ravindranath "Robby" Goswami  
Director, Region 9

Last month, we discussed the challenges presented by COVID-19 as the disease affected the global community and continues to impact our way of life. We looked at some of the opportunities presented to *REACT*, such as the formulation of a pandemic response protocols document, hosting of special welfare networks and outreach in the communities with served agencies. One of the major changes in the way many organizations operate is virtual meetings.

The option to conduct meetings and training using electronic means has been around for many years. From the basic telephone conference bridge to the online collaboration platforms, these solutions have been used to reduce travel time, reduce expenses and allow for participation by persons over a wide geographic area. Some offerings include mixture of audio, video, text, white-boarding, screen-sharing, file-sharing, Wikis and more. Of course, it could be argued that these technologies do not and cannot fully replace the in-person interaction that enriches communication.

With much of the world having undergone some form or restrictions in movement in responding to the pandemic, often referred to as "lockdown", many persons have been required to work from home for extended periods. While doing work and attending meetings remotely is undoubtedly not a new phenomenon, many were not geared up or prepared, and even of those that are accustomed, a choice of in-person meetings still existed then. COVID-19 caused the majority of gatherings such as meetings, training and conferences to either be cancelled or postponed, with some transitioning to on-line events.

The Board of *REACT* International, Inc. has for many years, held its regular meetings using virtual technologies including TeamSpeak, Conference-CallingHD, Audio Bridge, and Skype, to name just a few. Only the Annual Board Meeting is held as an in-person meeting. Provisions are included in the bylaws to validate such electronic options when used as constituting legitimate meetings. Of course other requirements are also required to be met such as giving notice, having a quorum, following an agenda and so on.

Several Councils and Teams have already adopted collaboration apps to hold their meetings, and they must be congratulated for taking the necessary steps to keep the organization running, notwithstanding the restrictions. *REACT* as an organization must find ways to continue its work, getting ready and being prepared to assist communities in the event of emergencies and disasters, while abiding with all restrictions put in place and continuing to be safe. We cannot let our guard down and need to be on the lookout for other hazards, all while COVID-19 in ongoing. A complex disaster is possible. We must therefore plan and prepare. At the time of writing, Tropical Storm Arthur was already formed prior to the start of the Hurricane Season which normally commences on 1st June and it is reported that this would be the sixth consecutive



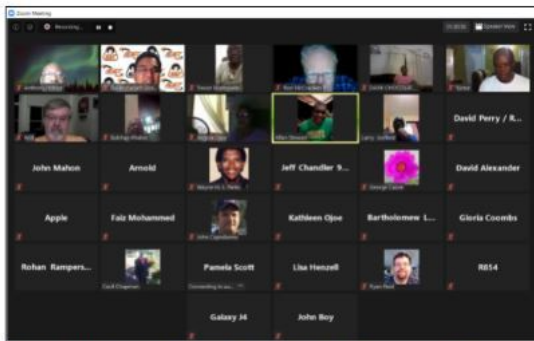
*Popular Audio/Video Conference Software*

Today many free and paid apps and cloud-hosted websites are available, each with their advantages and features. Tools in common use include Zoom, Google Hangouts, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Cisco WebEx, LogMeIn GoToMeeting, Avaya Spaces, JoinMe and Apache OpenMeetings.

year that systems have formed well in advance of the traditional season. Additionally, super cyclone Amphan, equivalent to a strong Category 4 hurricane, formed in the Bay of Bengal and is taking aim at India and Bangladesh.

On Saturday 9th May 2020, a Virtual Celebration Event was held via Zoom in observance of *REACT* Month. *REACT* International, Inc. founded in 1962 is celebrating 58 years in 2020. The 60th Anniversary is coming up in 2022 with a grand event being planned. *REACT* Trinidad and Tobago was founded in 1964, just two years after the parent body and is celebrating 56 years. St. George County *REACT* is also celebrating 25 years of service in 2020. There was much to celebrate!

The Zoom session commenced at 8 pm AST with a duration of 1 ½ hours, with many persons bringing greetings, sharing some history and their views on the progress the organization has made, as well as optimism for the future. Participants were drawn from several areas of the globe in a truly international event. Present were the President and several Directors and Officers of *REACT* International, past Officers, as well as two founding members of Trinidad and Tobago *REACT*. Several participants remarked that it was great to see and interact with fellow *REACT*ers, some of whom they only heard or read about.



Screenshot of *REACT* Month Virtual Celebration Event via Zoom

The atmosphere was informal and relaxed, allowing participants to express their view openly and candidly. Appreciation is extended to the management and members of the many Teams that participated.

The various platforms can also be used to conduct training, another important aspect of *REACT* operations. The opportunity exists to leverage the current high adoption rates of technologies like Zoom as well as capitalized on the possible free time that some may have to host training sessions that can be

held on a flexible schedule in the comfort of home. Additionally, the sessions can be recorded as well as streamed to YouTube for subsequent playback, thus creating a battery of instructor-led training sessions. While these strategies are in focus today due to COVID-19, the experience built up participating in on-line learning can augur well for future training.

There are plans to host instructor-led training sessions for *REACT* members, utilizing some of the already developed material put together by *REACT*'s Training department, as well as other curricula. An on-line registration form has been set up for members to express their interest in the particular courses. The form is available at <http://registration.ttreact.com/> The training will be conducted via Zoom at no cost to participants. Should you be interested in volunteering as an instructor for any program, please send an e-mail to [r.goswami@react-intl.org](mailto:r.goswami@react-intl.org) or WhatsApp to 1 (868) 682-2212.



Virtual Training Online Registration Form

The best way to become proficient with the virtual meeting tools is to get on board and use it. While at first, it may seem challenging, the more you use the technology, the easier it becomes. A good stable Internet connection is required. As a rule of thumb, if you are doing both audio & video, ensure an available Internet bandwidth/speed of at least 2 Mbps

in both the upload and download directions. A quick check can be done on the websites <http://fast.com> or <http://speedtest.net>.

Consider going virtual with your meetings and training as it can be the boost your Team needs.





Minutes  
REACT International® Inc., Special Board Meeting  
March 01, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 PM EST via teleconference, by Chairman Capodanno.

Pledge of allegiance – flag salute

Roll call was taken by Secretary Mahon:

Directors (5 Directors for quorum)

Present

Region 1 John Mahon  
Region 2 David Perry  
Region 3 Joe Zych  
Region 5 Jeremy Barrett  
Region 6 Tom Jenkins  
Region 7 Jerry Jones  
Region 8 John Capodanno  
Region 9 Robby Goswami

Absent

Region 4 Vacant

Officers

Present

President John Capodanno  
EVP Tom Jenkins  
Secretary John Mahon  
Treasurer Russ Dunn

Absent

Asst. Secretary Vacant  
Asst. Treasurer Matt Missetich

It was confirmed that a Quorum has been established.

GUESTS

Guests Present: Stan Walters, Will Stanley, Jay Flora, Wendy May, Walter Green, Kirk Paxson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Region 1, John Mahon, Second by Region 3, Joseph Zych to accept agenda.  
R1-Y, R2-Y, R3-Y, R5-Y, R6-Y, R7-Y, R8-Y, R9-Y

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

None submitted

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR;

Minutes of annual board meeting 01/27/2020  
Region 7 Jerry Jones Region 6, Tom Jenkins to accept minutes  
R1-Y, R2-Y, R3-Y, R5-Y, R6-Y, R7-Y, R8-Y, R9-Y

## OLD BUSINESS

- Financial Statement for 2019 (Not Ready Table to next meeting)
- Office Review Report (Robby Goswami) Tabled, not complete
- Online Membership - Summarized by President Capodanno – no Board action taken at this time.
  
- Training & Report: A hard copy of the report will be sent to the board. Training continues with operators in the national traffic system and radio relay international. We have stations in eight regions, we have passed over 1000 messages for react. We have one station in each state. We are planning for exercises this year for react teams which will include those which we have memorandum of agreement with. We are starting enhancements to the training material included task books starting with the traffic handling system.

## NEW BUSINESS

Membership Committee: we have two non-director members to nominate to the membership committee.

Motion by region eight second by region one to add Stan Walters and Will Stanley to the membership committee. R1-Y, R2-Y, R3-Y, R5-Y, R6-Y, R7-Y, R8-Y, R9-Y

### Region Reports

Region 1, John Mahon – Nothing to report

Region 2, David Perry – Nothing to report

Region 3, Joseph Zych – Nothing to report

Region 4, Vacant

Region 5, Jeremy Barrett – Chartered a new team – 2 Teams not renewed.

Region 6, Tom Jenkins – Lost 1 team seeking to gain members in other areas

Region 7, Gerry Jones – 3 teams reportedly not renewed, but 2 have renewed.

Region 8, John Capodanno – Will do all offices held at once at the end.

Region 9, Robby Goswami – Report submitted -

### Officers Reports:

President Capodanno –

- Email sent 23 FEB 20 seeking each Director's information for IRS report. Only received 6 replies.
- VOIP Phones are not being answered. We will relocate the phones with people who can answer calls with upcoming projects.
- Non-renewed teams list was reviewed.
- Confirmed Region 2 David Perry when is receiving emails
- 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo winner was not a director at the time he won the logo contest.

EVP: Thomas Jenkins – Nothing to report.

Secretary: John Mahon - Nothing to report.

Treasurer: Russ Dunn – Nothing to report.

Region 5 Jeremy Barrett reviewed the regions recruitment activity again. Team that have not renewed as of today are now considered inactive and no longer allowed use of *REACT*® logo or insurance.

The floor was opened to the guests to address the Board of Directors before moving to closed session.

Kurt Paxson is designing a new website for *REACT*® International. A unified message of what REACT is and does for the public, focused on retention and a front facing media for recruitment.

Wendy May noted the we are in our growth stage again, need to re-tweak everything to the 21<sup>st</sup> century

6:38 PM, PST (9:38 PM, EST)

Motion by Region 8, John Capodanno Region 6, Tom Jenkins move to executive session.

R1-Y, R2-Y, R3-Y, R5-Y, R6-Y, R7-Y, R8-Y, R9-Y

6:57 PM, PST. (9:58 PM, EST)

The Board of Directors returned to open session.

There is no further business for the Board of Directors. Motion by Region 8, John Capodanno, second Region 5 Jeremy Barrett to adjourn.

R1-Y, R2-Y, R3-Y, R5-Y, R6-Y, R7-Y, R8-Y, R9-Y

Moved by Region 8, John Capodanno to adjourn second by Region 3, Joe Zych.

R1-Y, R2-Y, R3-Y, R5-Y, R6-Y, R7-Y, R8-Y, R9-Y

ADJOURNMENT at 6:58 PM, PST. (9:58 PM, EST)

Next Meeting – June 30<sup>th</sup> 6PM, PST (9PM, EST)

Fraternally,  
John L. Mahon Secretary.

*Minutes*  
*REACT International® Inc., Special Board Meeting*  
*March 15, 2020*

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 PM EST via teleconference, by Chairman Capodanno.

Pledge of allegiance – flag salute

Roll call was taken by Secretary Mahon:

Directors (5 Directors for quorum)

Present

Region 1 John Mahon  
Region 2 David Perry  
Region 3 Joe Zych  
Region 5 Jeremy Barrett  
Region 6 Tom Jenkins  
Region 7 Jerry Jones  
Region 8 John Capodanno

Absent

Region 4 Vacant  
Region 9 Robby Goswami

Officers

Present

President John Capodanno  
EVP Tom Jenkins  
Secretary John Mahon  
Treasurer Russ Dunn

Absent

Asst. Secretary Vacant  
Asst. Treasurer Matt Missetich

It was confirmed that a Quorum has been established.

GUESTS

Guests Present: Jay Flora; Stan Walters; Vaughn McCauley; Will Stanley; Kirk Paxson; Bernard Parker, Robert Hitch; & Dhiren Parbhoo.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Region 1, John Mahon approve agenda second by Region 2 David Perry.

The motion passed with 6 for adoption and 1 against.

(R1-Y, R2-Y, R3-Y, R5-Y, R6-Y, R7-N, R8-Y)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There are no announcements.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR:

March Special Meeting March 1, 2020 (Not Ready)

OLD BUSINESS:

There is no old business

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership committee findings, Dallas County *REACT* Complaint.

A complaint was received regarding Dallas County *REACT* Vs. The Texas Lottery commission. The complaint and submitted documents were forwarded to the Membership committee, who has submitted their written recommendation to suspend the Team charter of Dallas County *REACT*.

As such, I entertain a motion to suspend *REACT*® International charter #C622 issued to Dallas County *REACT*® for this heinous and defiant violation of *REACT*® Charter agreement, rights and use: to operate in strict accordance with all City, State and Federal laws. I, President Capodanno will work with DCR Team Management to resolve the complaint in a timely manner.

Motion by Region 1, John Mahon, second by Region 6, Tom Jenkins to adopt the recommendation of the Membership committee and suspension the charter of Dallas County *REACT*.

Region 7 Jerry Jones noted a point of order seeking discussion and questioned the origin of the complaint as being initiated by President Capodanno, it was not. Mr. Jones noted there was no previous complaint forwarded to Dallas County *REACT*

{Despite that the documentation included many notices and failure to appear sent to the team PO Box since March, 2018 and the email initiated by Mr. Jones on 13-MAR-18}

Mr. Jones contends that Dallas County *REACT* had never received a complaint, questioned if the other members of Board of Directors have received a copy of this specific complaint and ordered the Secretary to poll the board as to individual receipt of this complaint.

{In violation of *REACT* International® practice and standing rules. As an individual Director, did not and does not, have any authority to direct any officer to any tasks of a personal nature; as what was attempted here. }

Chairman Capodanno asked Mr. Jones to hold on while searching for the specific document he requested. Mr. Jones repeatedly failed to comply, continued to speak out of order asking questions without allowing the time Chairman Capodanno ask for, nor waiting to be recognized.

Chairman Capodanno recognized Robert Hitch, who indicated that he thought Chairman Capodanno understood what was being read, but was disappointed that Chairman Capodanno was unable to read the English language. Mr. Hitch was ejected from the meeting for harassment of the chairman.

Chairman Capodanno recognized the Membership Committee Chairperson, Stan Walters who read a Texas Lottery Commission letter of March 14, 2018. Mr. Jones, speaking out of order without chair recognition, requested a copy of the document be sent to him and the team.

Mr. McCauley asked to be recognized, was asked by the chairman to hold on. Mr. McCauley spoke out of order without recognition to his point of not possessing the March 14, 2018 letter. Mr. Jones, and Mr. Parker spoke out of order in a seemly personal team discussion regarding the team's management of their obligation to the Texas Lottery Commission.

Chairman Capodanno recognized Mr. McCauley who spoke of his role as Treasurer as this information was not brought to his attention. These are Texas procedural laws and suggested the Teams does not need to appear before the commission to address the matter. The failure to appear does not have a negative impact upon Dallas County *REACT*.

{The Dallas County members present at this meeting would have the Board of Directors believe that the lack of their possession of the March 14, 2018 somehow negates the all earlier documents with the indicative fines noted in them. }

Chairman Capodanno recognized Mr. Parker who had a procedural question. Does *REACT* International retain a legal counsel and if so, who are they. Mr. Parker contends we {*REACT*} are making a legal judgment without legal counsel. Chairman Capodanno noted this was a matter of noncompliance with their Team charter agreement. Mr. Parker loudly exhibited his animosity saying no, *REACT* International is making a legal judgement, without legal counsel. Mr. Parker asked Chairman Capodanno if he was a lawyer. Mr. Jones spoke out of order without chair recognition asking Mr. Parker to back off. (42:06) Mr. Parker refused to yield and was ejected from the meeting for being disruptive.

It should be noted that it is *REACT* International® practice that all complaints are forwarded to the President, for investigation and resolution, as quickly as possible. There are no considerations for complaints in the Bylaws and policy 6-01 dictates complaints against Officers and or Directors. Furnishing a copy of any complaint to the member of that complaint is neither required nor practical.

The President of *REACT* International® handles all complaints and is not under any obligation to furnish a copy to anyone unless s/he sees fit. In this case, the matter was appropriately referred to the Membership committee as a matter of their Committee appointed duties addressing membership matters. Given the existing animosity by Mr. Jones, this referral was an attempt to maintain transparency.

To furnish a copy of any complaint to all board members would be out of order of practice; would cause undue bias of Directors before any investigation occurred; remove impartiality if the complaint merited action by the Board of Directors and may certainly cause predisposed judgements of the complaint without the full weight or benefit of any subsequent findings to support or refute the allegations.

Any authority of the Board of Directors comes from an adopted motion as voted on in the form of guidance for a particular office. Directors do not have authority as an individual Director. Mr. Jones was out of order in demanding the board be polled as to any receipt of this complaint before the matter was referred to the Membership committee.

Per Robert Rules of order, §4, debate on question. The debate must be confined to the merits of the pending question. Speakers must address their remarks to the chair, maintain a courteous tone, and—especially in reference to any divergence of opinion—should avoid injecting a personal note into debate. To this end, they must never attack or make any allusion to the motives of members. As already noted, speakers should refer to officers only by title and should avoid the mention of other members' names as much as possible.

Motion by Region 1, John Mahon to end the discussion and move to a vote. Chairman Capodanno acknowledged the motion and moved to a vote R1-Y;

Region 2 David Perry interrupted the vote roll call asking if the team would be allowed time to resolve the issue due to the “stigma” this may cause the team. Further discussion ensued briefly before it was noted we were in the middle of the vote that should resume.

Motion adopted with 6 votes for, and 1 opposed. (R1-Y, R2-Y, R3-Y, R5-Y, R6-Y, R7-N, R8-Y).

Chairman Capodanno recognized Region 2 David Perry seeking clarification. Chairman Capodanno directed Mr. Perry to the motion that he, as President, would work with the team management to resolve the matter as quickly as possible. Chairman Capodanno asked Mr. Perry if that would change his vote. Mr. Perry acknowledged that he would vote yes if they {Dallas County *REACT*} were afforded a specific timeframe to resolve the matter. Mr. Perry's vote was not altered as it presented as a conditional vote, not the required favorable or adverse vote.

Chairman Capodanno recognized Region 1, John Mahon who noted that in light of the suspension of Dallas County *REACT*'s Charter, the Region 7 Directors seat is now considered vacant. Per Bylaws section 5.2 a Director must be a member of a team in good standing.

Mr. Jones spoke out of order without being recognized by the Chairman, interrupting Region 1, John Mahon to note he was still a life member. Region 1, John Mahon noted this was the third time he was interrupted without yielding the floor and asked Chairman Capodanno if he could continue.

Region 1, John Mahon noted that in light of the suspension of Dallas County *REACT*'s Charter, this suspension shall apply to any and all classes of membership of Dallas County *REACT*. Any and all rights and use of *REACT* afforded all Dallas County *REACT* life members shall be under suspension for violation the life member agreement item 9: Even though an individual has been recognized and identified as a Life member of *REACT*<sup>®</sup>, that membership may be revoked for cause should that individual bring discredit upon the *REACT*<sup>®</sup> name.

Chairman Capodanno clarified that all life members of Dallas County *REACT* are now considered unattached, and thus cannot do anything, any event or conduct business as unattached members. It was further clarified that Dallas County *REACT* cannot use their life members to continue any Team operations.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:53 PM, EST.

Moved by Region 1, John Mahon to adjourn second by Region 6, Tom Jenkins.  
(R1-Y, R2-Y, R3-Y, R5-Y, R6-Y, R8-Y) Motion adopted unanimously

Next Meeting – March 22, 2020 at 9:00 PM, EST

Fraternally,  
John L. Mahon Secretary.



Here is another 'weather spotting' opportunity REACTers might be interested in

## What is CoCoRaHS?

CoCoRaHS is an acronym for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). By using low-cost measurement tools, stressing training and education, and utilizing an interactive Web-site, our aim is to provide the highest quality data for natural resource, education and research applications. We are now in all fifty states.

## Where did the CoCoRaHS Network originate?

The network originated with the Colorado Climate Center at Colorado State University in 1998 thanks in part to the Fort Collins flood a year prior. In the years since, CoCoRaHS now includes thousands of volunteers in the Northern Hemisphere. Click [here](#) for a look at the order of states/countries that have joined the network.

## Who can participate?

This is a community project. Everyone can help, young, old, and in-between. The only requirements are an enthusiasm for watching and reporting weather conditions and a desire to learn more about how weather can affect and impact our lives.

## What will our volunteer observers be doing?

Each time a rain, hail or snow storm crosses your area, volunteers take measurements of precipitation from as many locations as possible (see equipment). These precipitation reports are then recorded on our Web site [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org). The data are then displayed and organized for many of our end users to analyze and apply to daily situations ranging from water resource analysis and severe storm warnings to neighbors comparing how much rain fell **in their backyards**.

## Who uses CoCoRaHS?

CoCoRaHS is used by a wide variety of organizations and individuals. The National Weather Service, other meteorologists, hydrologists, emergency managers, city utilities (water supply, water conservation, storm water), insurance adjusters, USDA, engineers, mosquito control, ranchers and farmers, outdoor & recreation interests, teachers, students, and neighbors

in the community are just some examples of those who visit our Web site and use our data.

## What do we hope to accomplish?

CoCoRaHS has several goals (as stated in our mission statement). 1) provide accurate high-quality precipitation data for our many end users on a timely basis; 2) increasing the density of precipitation data available throughout the country by encouraging volunteer weather observing; 3) encouraging citizens to have fun participating in meteorological science and heightening their awareness about weather; 4) providing enrichment activities in water and weather resources for teachers, educators and the community at large to name a few.

## Who is sponsoring this network?

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) are major sponsors of CoCoRaHS. Other organizations have contributed either financially, and/or with supplies and equipment. Our list of sponsors continues to grow. Click [here](#) to visit our sponsor's page. Many other organizations and

individuals have pitched in time and resources to help keep the network up and running. We are grateful to all of you, as CoCoRaHS would not be possible without your help.

## What benefits are there in volunteering?

One of the neat things about participating in this network is coming away with the feeling that you have made an important contribution that helps others. By providing your daily observation, you help to fill in a piece of the weather puzzle that affects many across your area in one way or another. You also will have the chance to make some new friends as you do something important and learn some new things along the way. In some areas, activities are organized for network participants including training sessions, field trips, special speakers, picnics, pot-luck dinners, and photography contests just to name a few.

## How can I sign up?

Just click [here](#) to sign up as a CoCoRaHS Volunteer Observer or download a .pdf version of our application and return it as soon as possible.







# NEWS

## FROM THE

# FRONT LINES

### Northern Rhode Island *REACT*

(Rhode Island)

Submitted by Peter Branconier

Food Pantry Delivery-----The new Normal?

The Rhode Island food bank delivered boxes of MRE's to the food pantry for those residents unable to go to the store or with funds to purchase food. The last four days of the month the pantry at the Slatersville Congregational church. provide a grab and go service for those clients in need.

*REACT* and *CERT* members man the town EOC requesting food deliveries from the state EOC via the *WEBEOC* computer program.

*REACT* members using Facebook, Twitter and *CODE RED* have kept the town residents informed throughout the *COVID-19* event using the internet.



Northern Rhode Island *REACT* members along with North Smithfield Department of Public works move boxes of food stuffs into the local food pantry.

### Flagler County Assist *REACT*

(Florida)

Submitted by Bob Pickering

Back in February of 2020 *REACT* members began to prepare for a possible pandemic and how the Team may help in the community if needed. By March it would become quite clear that yes the Team will be helping in Flagler County. Our last in person meeting was March 1st but then the writing was on the wall, this thing was escalating big big time and we would indeed be caught up in it.



*REACT* member texting our *NCS* station at a food drive.

Throughout the 35 year history of Flagler County Assist we had worked through severe weather, tropical cyclones, wildfires and large public events. But this would be different. Safety of our members was the top priority and fortunately our Team has an infection control nurse as a member and she became our Safety Officer. Any activation and support missions had to be

approved by her and we only would use the minimum of members needed to perform a task to reduce potential exposure risk.



One of our main missions is to help fill the gaps when gaps need filling. A few of our members began to assist at a local test site helping with traffic control and logistics as needed. One of our members, a trained forklift operator, was able to help at the Emergency Operations Center when emergency PPE supplies came in.

*REACT member with PPE at the test site*

By April a COVID 19 testing site was established in the county. A few of our members assisted with the logistics as well as traffic control at the site. At the same time a radio watch was established with members on site able to reach a base station on GMRS. At the same time the base station monitored weather and was able give heads up on several storms approaching the site. Skywarn operations continued on top of the COVID 19 response



*REACT members in the Emergency Operations Center*

Two large scale food drives were also held in April and in May. The Flagler County Sheriff's Office request REACT members to assist at both. Both times REACT members worked two locations at the same time with a

Base station acting as NCS.

The COVID 19 response continues today, REACT members continue to support and fill in the gaps where needed.

### **Howard County REACT (Maryland)** Submitted by David Perry

Heading into our third month of the COVID-19 crisis, our team has been extremely busy with our food delivery, food drive, and pop-up pantries mentioned in last month's edition of the REACTer. Intended to help feed any citizen that is struggling financially during this disaster, our efforts have been coordinated with Howard County COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster), Howard County Food Bank, and the Office of Emergency Management. Since these efforts began, our team has handed out ### lbs of food. Enough to feed ### people!



*Howard County REACT member Tori Hammers (white shirt), her mom Eydie Hammers (red/white stripe) and Joe Rehder (yellow vest) along with another COAD member, Diana Newman (blue shirt) ready to hand out food to families in need during the COVID-19 crisis.*

As this crisis moves into long term recovery, the food bank has been able to secure a large donation from Howard County Government to purchase enough food for the next few months.

In other news, our team also recently acquired a site for the placement of a GMRS repeater. The site already includes a vacant tower and equipment building placed at



*Howard County REACT members Mark Thornton and Joe Rehder working hard at the tower site.*



one of the highest points in Howard County. Since we secured the site, our team has already made great headway in cleaning out downed trees, repairing broken guy lines for the tower,, and even moved out a pair of snakes that had taken up residence in the building. Once operational, we expect the site to deliver reliable GMRS coverage to the eastern and most populated part of the county as well as surrounding areas.

More information about our team can be found at [www.howardcountyreact.org](http://www.howardcountyreact.org)



lish contact with *REACT* for the the upcoming hurricane season and discussions were held on setting up of their radios at their new location. At the 1st visit an assessment was done and a plan was created to return on Saturday, 23rd May to have various radios recommis-

sioned with the repositioning of antennas, servicing of coaxial terminations and testing done. All radio checks at the end proved effective and the exercise was successful. The task was completed by the Technical committee led by the Technical Officer David Alexander R507 and other Members Brian Traboulay R510, Sean Baig R523 and Rohan Rampersad R501.

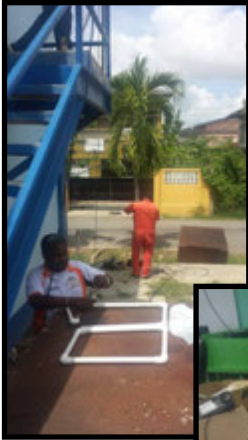
Thanks to the Members of *REACT* for their efforts.



### County Caroni *REACT*

(Trinidad and Tobago)

Submitted by Rohan Rampersad



Members of *REACT* County Caroni Team 6005 assisting CTTRC Disaster Management Unit in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season.

The Communications Technician of the Disaster Management Unit



contacted the President of *REACT* Team 6005 to estab-

#### REACT PARTNERS



## REGIONS 3 & 9!!

**Region 3: Watch your Team mail in the coming days. Ballots for election of your Regional Director have been sent or will be sent soon.**

**Region 6: No candidate has announced for your Region**

**Region 9: Watch your email. Your Region's election is being done electronically this year.**

***All ballots must be received by International by June 30, 2020***

# CELEBRATING *REACT* MONTH WITH SPECIAL ZELLO AWARDS

Submitted by: Ravindranath "Robby" Goswami, 9Z4RG/AK4NB, Region 9 Director

On Saturday 30th May 2020, a Special Zello Net was held on the *REACT MEMBERS* channel. The Net commenced at 9:00 PM EDT and ran for approximately 1 3/4 hours. Net control was Allan Stewart, *REACT* Unit 400, assisted by Ravindranath

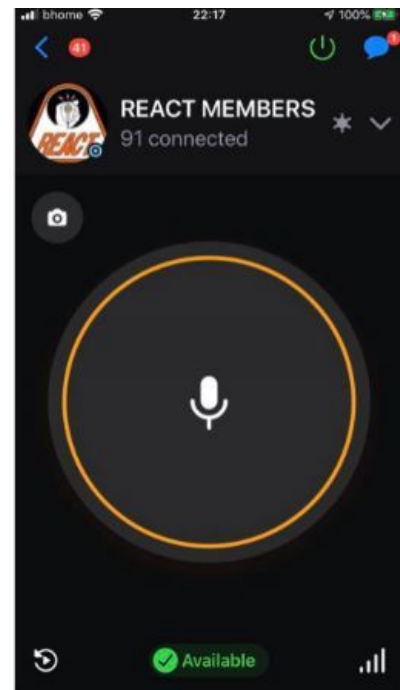
tional as the net controllers presented each recipient.

An Awards Committee comprising Kenny Jagdeosingh, *REACT* Unit 103 who is the current Net Manager, and Allan Stewart, *REACT* 400, collated the list of awardees. Certificates were produced at *REACT* International, Inc. headquarters located in Glendale, California courtesy of President John Capodanno.



Goswami, *REACT* Unit 104.

The date was chosen to coincide as a sort of wrap up with the end of *REACT* Month. Special awards were conferred to persons who would have made significant contributions to the *REACT MEMBERS* Zello Channel over the years. The event recognized pioneers, persons who contributed in the past, current contributors, supporters, and one special posthumous award. The late Jason Mungal, *REACT* Unit 937 was specially recognized as a live-wire, Net Manager and Net Controller, who was also an advocate for the use of Zello as a tool. At times, things became rather emo-



otional as the net controllers presented each recipient.



The awardees were as follows.

- Jason Mungal
- Allan Stewart
- Kenny Jagdeosingh
- Carlton Bellas
- Larry Joefield
- Angela Henry-Small
- Garth Mannette
- Tito Lopez
- Faizul Mohammed
- Lamech Clarke
- Lisa Henzell
- McDonald Nunes
- Kurt Jack
- Angela O'Joe-St. Rose
- Balchan Khaloo
- Ronald Newton
- Paula-Marie Granado
- Khazlur Baksh
- A. McDoom
- Kevin Kerr

Jeremy Gooding  
Ishmael Samuel  
David Behrend  
Jay Flora  
Whithfield Turner  
Anestella Moses  
Tamra Volz  
Lucy Higgs  
Rachel Ramsden  
Wayne Parks  
George Hazel  
Aggrey Marsh  
Shelon Padmore  
Anwar Mondol  
Jeff Chandler  
Victor Bernard  
Will Stanley  
Danley Mark  
Christopher Smith  
Glenford Duncan  
Monique Walker  
Bevon Metivier  
Arnold Griffith  
Walter Green  
Alex Antoine  
Orville Smith

Iain McFadyen  
David Alexander  
Jean-Paul Pouchet  
Carlton Nanan  
Anna-Monique Rampersad  
Reni King  
Dean Sammy  
Eve Wesley Gajadhar  
Trevor Brathwaite  
Elizabeth Blache

Congratulations to all awardees and thanks to everyone who made the event possible.

In addition to the *REACT MEMBERS* channel which has been in existence since 2013, many Teams also have their own channel. If your Team does not currently use Zello, consider adding it to your tool chest. While Internet- dependent, Zello can still add significant value. Also, if you have not already checked out the *REACT MEMBERS* channel, please do. Apart from regular nets each Saturday and Monday at 9 PM EDT, the channel is quite active with reports on incidents and other advisories throughout the day. It would be great to hear from you and to connect with *REACTers* and other communicators around the world. All are welcome.

## Reach Out and Reap

Wanting some Team publicity?

It's right at your fingertips. Really. Are you on Facebook? Is your Team? Have you seen the '*REACT Members*' page? You're on your way. Ask a Teammate if you have any questions or would just like some help.

Scroll down that '*REACT Members*' page. There you have a wealth of photos to help you. Let it work for your Team. Choose one that suits your purpose. Move the photo to the Team page, or yours. Immediately, post a *REACT* logo to the page, whichever logo you choose to use.

That accomplishes three things. First, it keeps those two posts together on your Timeline. They will also be in the right sequence. Second, the logo serves as the 'attention-getter' for your photo which follows. Third, you can now add whatever text you want by 'editing' your post. You can add text to either post, or both, until you are satisfied. Just click on those three dots at the upper right corner of each post.

In the 'Comments' section below your photo, you can invite people to join your Team. Include a phone number or address. Add the *REACT* International URL to give them more help. It will also add a *REACT* visual to help more.

Now, your Teammates join in. Share your photo, then your logo, with them. Ask them, in turn, to share it with their Facebook friends. With a few clicks, your Team will have reached a large number of people in the community, and even some beyond.

You can repeat this for your Team as often as you wish. It costs nothing, but it can reap big returns in both goodwill and recruiting. Take photos of all your events and add the best to the collection on the '*REACT Members*' page. Whenever you see a good one there, remember to share it on your Timeline.

Let's make *REACT* a household name. Put your mouse to work on it



is now available for our vision impaired readers



Yes! For our vision-impaired members and friends, The *REACTer* is now available on the National Federation for the Blind's NFB Newslines service.

(From *The NFB*) NFB-NEWSLINE® began as, and still is, a service that allows blind people to access newspapers, magazines, other periodicals, and other information via a touch-tone telephone. Users call in with their standard touch-tone phone and respond to voice prompts that allow them to access the over 500 publications that we have, as well as weather information, job listings, TV listings, ads from Target and Walmart, and more. These are all read with text-to-speech software and the user can choose from different "voices" to read to them.

All of this information can also be accessed at [www.nfbnewslinesonline.org](http://www.nfbnewslinesonline.org), via an iOS mobile app, NFB-NEWSLINE Mobile, and with the Amazon Echo family of smart speakers via our Alexa skill. For the telephone and Alexa access methods, no screen reader is needed. The screen reader is the software, similar to the JAWS product that reads digital information to blind people via synthesized speech or by transmitting it to a Braille display. There are several screen readers but JAWS is a

popular one, along with Nonvisual Desktop access or NVDA, which is gaining in popularity because it's both powerful and free. These are only needed to read the content on the website or with an iOS (Apple) device, and iOS has its own built-in screen reader called VoiceOver.

Users have to apply to make sure they are eligible, as we are only allowed to provide the copyrighted material to people who are blind or have other print disabilities. They then log in to the access method of their choice with an individualized user ID and security code. Content can also be emailed to users or accessed on some other devices that are specifically made for the blind, usually known as digital Talking Book players. The service also provides Braille files that can be read on electronic Braille displays, which are the best access method for deafblind users. But all of this is, again, available only to eligible users with a free account.

Thanks to Chris Danielsen at NFB for that information! So, if you want to read the *REACTer*, or have it read to you and you are eligible for this service, go to: [www.nfbnewslinesonline.org](http://www.nfbnewslinesonline.org)

## Do You Shop on Amazon?

Did you know you can donate to *REACT* International when you buy on Amazon? Instead of shopping at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and select *REACT* International, Inc as your chosen charity.

**SIMPLE AS THAT!**



and



# St. Georges *REACT* Receives President's Appreciation Award

St George County *REACT* is the largest *REACT* Team in the world and is a registered NGO in Trinidad and Tobago. It is an organization that has in its membership well trained Amateur Radio Operators, VHF Operators and - to a lesser extent today – CB Operators and these operators assist by volunteering during disasters and emergencies by augmenting the staff functions – in particular radio communications at three local corporations including:

- Port of Spain Municipal Corporation
- Diego Martin Regional Corporation and
- San Juan / Laventille Regional Corporation

Team 4928's volunteers also position themselves strategically in an emergency allowing quick and effective tactical communication wherever needed.

St. Georges *REACT* is 25 years old in 2020 and has received the *REACT* President's Certificate of Appreciation. Congratulations to St. Georges *REACT*!



# **REACT INTERNATIONAL WORLDWIDE ZELLO NET**

Please join us every Saturday night at 9 pm EST  
(8 pm during Daylight Savings Time) on the  
**REACT MEMBERS**  
Zello Channel

**All Communicators Are Welcome!**

**NO LICENSE REQUIRED**

use your Internet connected computer or smart phone.

The Zello app is available for download from <http://www.zello.com>



**Download the Zello Walkie-Talkie app for your platform.  
Create an account with a username (i.e: a call sign) and  
password, then add the *REACT MEMBERS* channel.**

**Press the Push-to-Talk button to transmit.**

**VOLUNTEER TO BE A  
NET OPERATOR!**



# REACT International Event Calendar

## JUNE 2020

1.....REACTer Published  
2.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
6.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
9.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
13.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
15.....Deadline for July REACTer  
16.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
20.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
23.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
27.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
30.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)

## JULY 2020

1.....REACTer Published  
4.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
7.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
11.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
14.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
15.....Deadline for August REACTer  
18.....Zello World Wide Net ((:00 p.m. ET)  
21.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
25.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
28.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)

## AUGUST 2020

1.....REACTer Published  
1.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
4.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
8.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
11.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
15.....Deadline for September REACTer  
15.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
18.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
22.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
25.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
29.....Zello World Wide Net ((:00 p.m. ET)

## SEPTEMBER 2020

1.....REACTer Published  
1.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
5.....Zello World WEide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
7.....**Labor Day (US)**  
8.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
12.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
15.....Deadline for October REACTer  
15.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
19.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
22.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
26.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
29.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)

## OCTOBER 2020

1 .....REACTer Published  
3 .....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
6 .....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
10.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
13.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
15.....Deadline for November REACTer  
17.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
20.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
24.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
27.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
31.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
31.....**Halloween (US)**

## NOVEMBER 2020

1.....REACTer Published  
3.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
7.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
10.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
14 .....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
15.....Deadline for December REACTer  
17.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
21.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
24.....REACT World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)  
26.....**Thanksgiving Day (US)**  
28.....Zello World Wide Net (9:00 p.m. ET)



*To add items to this calendar, contact:*

**REACT International: 301-316-2900 (Inter-Office Phone: Ext 114)**

**email: [editor@thereacter.com](mailto:editor@thereacter.com)**

*Items on the calendar are as accurate as we can make them but are subject to change.*

*Any questions ... contact the person in charge of the event*

**Most National/International Holidays are now in the calendar. They are in CAPITAL PRINT**



# Amateur Radio



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